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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6639

BILL NUMBER: SB 334

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 12, 2008

BILL AMENDED: Feb 21, 2008

SUBJECT: Severe Weather Warning Sirens.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Waltz

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Avery

BILL STATUS: Enrolled

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to adopt rules before January 1, 2010, to establish (1) minimum technical standards for severe weather warning sirens; (2) the circumstances under which a severe weather warning siren (siren) may be activated; (3) information required in a siren coverage report or siren coverage plan; and (4) other rules necessary to assess coverage of sirens in Indiana and determine the need for additional sirens.

The bill requires DHS, at the request of a county legislative body, to assist the county in development of a siren coverage plan. The bill permits DHS to require a county that requests assistance in development of a siren coverage plan to develop a siren coverage report. It specifies the content of a siren coverage report and a siren coverage plan. It requires DHS to assist a county that adopts a siren coverage plan to implement the plan and obtain federal and other grants to enable the county in implementation of the plan. The bill requires DHS to adopt certain rules not later than January 1, 2010.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The bill requires DHS to draft technical rules before January 1, 2010, that include requirements for any test, activation, or failure rate data that the DHS may require a county to submit with respect to any siren identified by a county in a siren coverage report or siren coverage plan. The DHS must also draft other rules necessary for the DHS to assess the number, location, and condition of existing severe weather warning sirens in each county; and determine the need for additional sirens. At the request of the county legislative body, the DHS must assist the county in developing a siren coverage plan. The DHS must do the following not later than 6 months after a county submits a report:

- (1) Review the siren coverage report.

(2) Make recommendations to the county necessary to ensure comprehensive severe weather warning siren coverage for all residents of the county.

The DHS must also assist a county that adopts a siren coverage plan to implement the plan and obtain federal and other grants to enable the county in implementation of the plan.

The DHS will require additional staff. If a program manager was hired to oversee the program, annual costs would equal \$50,000. Additional administrative staff may be needed initially to establish the program.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions. For FY 2007, DHS reverted \$2.5 M to the state General Fund.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) The bill will increase administrative expenses for local units. The expense will vary by county and will depend on existing structures and practices. A siren that is able to project 1½ miles in each direction costs approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000. Some counties already require developers to install certain warning devices.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DHS.

Local Agencies Affected: (Revised) Counties; political subdivisions or agencies responsible for planning for, acquiring, operating, maintaining, or testing severe weather warning sirens; units that have planning and zoning jurisdiction.

Information Sources: DHS, Association of Indiana Counties.

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